AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

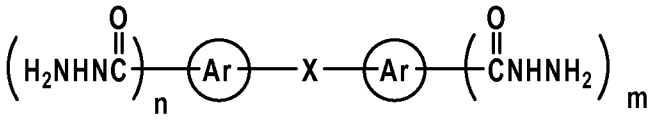
1. (currently amended) A polyacetal resin composition comprising a polyacetal resin, a carboxylic acid hydrazide, an antioxidant, a processing stabilizer and a heat stabilizer, wherein

the polyacetal resin composition is substantially free from a phosphorous-containing flame retardant, and wherein

the carboxylic acid hydrazide comprises a polycyclic aromatic carboxylic acid hydrazide or a polycyclic aromatic carboxylic acid hydrazide having a ~~substituent.,~~ substituent, said polycyclic aromatic carboxylic acid hydrazide comprises at least one member selected form the group consisting of the following:

(i) a condensed polycyclic aromatic carboxylic acid hydrazide;

(ii) a polyarylcarboxylic acid hydrazide represented by the following formula (1):



(1)

wherein Ar represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring; X represents a single bond, an alkylene group, a (thio)ether group, a carbonyl group, a sulfoxide group, a sulfone group, or a bivalent aromatic group; “m” denotes an integer of 1 to 4; and “n” denotes an integer of 0 to 4; and

(iii) an oxycarboxylic acid hydrazide corresponding to the each of said hydrazides (i) and (ii), wherein

the antioxidant comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a hindered phenol-series compound and a hindered amine-series compound, and wherein

the processing stabilizer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a higher fatty acid or a derivative thereof, and a polyoxyalkylene glycol, ~~and a silicone-series compound,~~ and wherein

the heat stabilizer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a basic nitrogen-containing compound, a phosphine-series compound, a metal salt of an organic carboxylic acid, an alkali or alkaline earth metal compound, a hydrotalcite, and a zeolite.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid hydrazide comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of (i) a condensed polycyclic C_{10-40}arene-carboxylic acid hydrazide; (ii) a bisC_{6-14}aryl-carboxylic acid hydrazide represented by the formula (1), in which X is a single bond, a straight or branched chain C_{1-10}alkylene group, a (thio)ether group, a carbonyl group, a sulfoxide group, or a sulfone group; and (iii) an oxycarboxylic acid hydrazide corresponding to each of said hydrazides (i) and (ii).

4. (original) A resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the carboxylic acid hydrazide is 0.001 to 20 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polyacetal resin.

5. (previously presented) A resin composition according to claim 1, which further comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a weather (light)-resistant stabilizer, an impact resistance improver, a slip-improving agent, a coloring agent, and a filler.

6. (original) A resin composition according to claim 5, wherein the antioxidant, the processing stabilizer, the heat stabilizer, and the weather (light)-resistant stabilizer are substantially free from an intramolecular ester bond.

7.–9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) A resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the heat stabilizer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an alkaline earth metal salt of an organic carboxylic acid, and an alkaline earth metal oxide.

11. (previously presented) A resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the heat stabilizer comprises an alkaline earth metal salt of a hydroxy acid.

12. (original) A resin composition according to claim 5, wherein the weather (light)-resistant stabilizer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a benzotriazole-series compound, a benzophenone-series compound, an aromatic benzoate-series compound, a cyanoacrylate-series compound, a oxalic anilide-series compound, and a hydroxyaryl-1,3,5-triazine-series compound.

13. (original) A resin composition according to claim 5, wherein the impact resistance improver comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyurethane and an acrylic core-shell polymer.

14. (original) A resin composition according to claim 5, wherein the slip-improving agent comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an olefinic polymer, a silicone-series resin, and a fluorine-containing resin.

15. (previously presented) A process for producing a polyacetal resin composition as in claim 1, which comprises melting and mixing in an extruder the polyacetal

resin with the carboxylic acid hydrazide, the antioxidant, the processing stabilizer and the heat stabilizer, wherein at least the carboxylic acid hydrazide is fed from a side feed port of the extruder and mixed within the extruder with the polyacetal resin.

16. (original) A shaped article formed from a polyacetal resin composition recited in claim 1.

17. (original) A shaped article according to claim 16, wherein (1) the emission of formaldehyde from the shaped article which is maintained in a closed space for 24 hours at a temperature of 80^0C is not more than 1.0 μg per one cm^2 of the surface area of the article, and/or (2) the emission of formaldehyde from the shaped article which is maintained in a closed space for 3 hours at a temperature of 60^0C under saturated humidity is not more than 1.2 μg per one cm^2 of the surface area of the article.

18. (original) A shaped article according to claim 16, which is an automotive part, an electric or electronic device part, an architectural or pipeline part, a household utensil or cosmetic article part, or a medical device part.